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## **Testimony of Wendy Station Founder, President of Encephalitis Global**

### **A Hearing of The House Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs on Challenges in Combating the West Nile Virus**

**Washington, DC  
October 6<sup>th</sup> 2004**

#### **Introduction**

On a sunny April morning back in 1999, I sat down at my desk in our local municipal government offices, for the very last time. I had been trying to shake a minor headache all morning. Finally, I told my co-worker that I'd have to go home. That's the last thing I remember for the next four weeks. I don't recall driving home. I don't recall being miserable to my family in the following days. And, I don't recall my own husband taking me to our local hospital's emergency room, and telling them, "something isn't right about Wendy."

It was my amazing good fortune that one of the medical professionals suggested that I may be suffering from encephalitis, which is the inflammation of the brain. I was whisked into treatment, and my life was saved. Unfortunately, while this amazing doctor was saving my life, my family was struggling to learn more about encephalitis. They searched our local library, the internet, asking friends -- no one seemed to really understand.

Once I came home, my problems multiplied. My parents were babysitting me as my husband went to work and our children went to school. On that first morning home, I was seeking a spoon to stir my coffee. I went searching through a pile of newspapers, asking the dog, and checking in the freezer. As I was heading outdoors in the rain to search the backyard for a spoon, my mother had to show me where the spoons were kept -- in my own kitchen drawer. This was just one piece of knowledge that I re-learned. It was only one of hundreds.

I am legally disabled and I was reassessed earlier this year as disabled. Prior to my viral encephalitis (non-vector borne), I worked in our local government engineering department. I was also trained and qualified to take local Brownies and Girl Guide groups on overnight camping trips, and enjoyed doing so.



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I used to welcome international exchange students to live in our home, and I designed and operated a program titled, "Hello Canada", teaching living skills and the English language to new Canadians. And, now? Post encephalitis? Now, I am a 49 year old woman, with the brain of an 89 year old woman. I forget things. I get flustered. I get confused. I tire easily. My husband and children take turns, "keeping an eye on me." My life is typical of any survivor of encephalitis, no matter how one contracts it. Thanks to the West Nile Virus, there are thousands of people who share the same life as I.

Since I became ill, I have noticed that society looks at me, and says, "Wendy looks okay. She must be okay." This can be so very frustrating for any survivor and not to be taken seriously. To assist you today in taking me seriously, I would like to share part of my neurological evaluation.

"Mrs. Station has been left with permanent cognitive dysfunction in the form of decreased short term memory, decreased attention span, decreased concentration abilities. Mrs. Station's personality has been permanently changed as a result of this. She is required to be medicated for the anxiety attacks which have developed as a result of encephalitis. Mrs. Station is not able to work, and will probably never be able to work at a job either part time or full time permanently, due to these ongoing cognitive deficits that have left her permanently disabled. It is probable that she will not notice any improvement in the future.

Since then I have learned that encephalitis is an acute infection and inflammation of the inner area of brain itself. This is in contrast to meningitis, which is an inflammation of the layers covering the brain. The damage done by encephalitis is permanent. Encephalitis is often the result of vector borne diseases, in particular the West Nile Virus. Recovery from encephalitis is often professionally measured in a two-year time span, as neighbouring areas of the brain struggle to re-learn skills and abilities that have been lost. This struggle can have a variety of success.

There are different types of encephalitis, including St. Louis Encephalitis, La Cross encephalitis, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, Rasmussen Encephalitis, Herpes Simplex Encephalitis – and now West Nile encephalitis, the newest arrival. Organisms that transmit disease from one animal host to another are called vectors. Mosquitoes are vectors for the transmission of encephalitis from small creatures — usually birds and rodents — to humans. Dan Dubno of CBS News recently reported a fact that is already known to much of the world, that *"According to Florida A&M University, mosquitoes 'cause more human suffering than any other organism -- over one million people die from mosquito-borne diseases every year."* (Sept 23, 2004)

In the year 2000, I was capable to return to my computer at home, and I began searching for information about encephalitis. I found that there was only one registered charity in the WORLD for encephalitis, located in the United Kingdom. I contacted them by email to see if they would spread to North America, and they replied, "We will do England, Wendy. You can do the rest of the world." Thus, my website, "Encephalitis Global" was born. Thanks to the efforts of one of our members, who is a lawyer, we are incorporating Encephalitis Global into a non-profit corporation and seeking tax exempt status as a charity in the United States.



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In the last few years I have sought out encephalitis survivors, often traveling great distances to spread awareness. For example, on a weekend in July 2001, my Goodspouse<sup>1</sup> drove me on a 1,000 mile round trip, so I could speak on stage, in the local Community Center in Hermiston, Oregon. The audience was a large gathering of friends and family, getting together as a fundraiser to help support a local farmer who was hospitalized with encephalitis. Apparently, he was not the only one in his area who had been recently diagnosed. Another time, we took a break from a holiday, to meet with a family in Ft. Lauderdale Florida, where the young father had been recently diagnosed. Since the West Nile epidemic began in the United States, I have seen more and more encephalitis survivors.

In addition to my travels, my modest website has become an information reference used by a number of very well known resources on the internet, including the following:

- The Health on the Net Foundation in Switzerland includes Encephalitis Global, and has accredited us with their Honour Code... their highest rating, which confirms we follow their guidelines. - [Honour Code Accredited](#)
- In my own country, the National Library of Canada medical sciences includes Encephalitis Global as [616.832 Encephalitis Global](#).
- Here in the United States, the National Organization for Rare Diseases (NORD) offers Encephalitis Global as an 'organization related to encephalitis.' This means that I'm available, 24/7, to offer information and support.
- Cornell University Environmental Risks Program (West Nile) includes Encephalitis Global in their West Nile Resources section.
- CBS News 48 Hours Medical Mysteries did focus on encephalitis in one of their programs... now, Encephalitis Global is included in their website, as an information reference.

In 2001, the encephalitis community on the internet decided that it was time for us to get together. It did take twelve months to carefully organize the first annual international FACES (Friends And Caregivers Encephalitis Survivors) Conference here in North America, held in Ottawa, Canada in September 2002. The following year, our Conference was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The third annual international Conference proudly took place earlier this summer in Enfield, Connecticut. This third Conference was included in the CDC [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) (Volume 10, No. 7, July 2004, Page 174) Upcoming Infectious Disease Activities. Each Conference is a heartwarming meeting for survivors, caregivers and loved ones, and has welcomed guests from India and the United Kingdom, as well as from the United States and Canada. Attendees share information and support, and learn more from our excellent guest speakers about prevention, treatment and post-encephalitis coping strategies.

A Guest Speaker at our Conference, David W. Moskowitz, MD, is the Chairman, CEO and Chief Medical Officer for GenoMed, Inc. GenoMed is a company that uses its expertise in genomics to improve clinical outcomes. They announced recently (June 10 2004) that USA's second case of West Nile virus encephalitis has responded promptly to its treatment approach. Dr. Moskowitz states that, "viral encephalitis involves two players: the virus and the host. Not every person infected with the same virus has the same reaction to it. For example, only about one third of people with West Nile virus 'fever' go on to develop full-blown encephalitis. And no more than 30% of people with WNV encephalitis die. Why are some people unluckier than others?"

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<sup>1</sup> This nickname, Goodspouse, was at first a term I used to refer to my husband, Rick, to respect his privacy when discussing my life online. Now, it has become a basic nickname used with respect for any spouse of an encephalitis survivor.



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Since North America began suffering from the West Nile Virus epidemic, members at Encephalitis Global shake their heads in wonder and disbelief when they hear folks moan and cry and try to second guess the need for that “annoying mosquito spraying.” This NIMBY (not in my back yard) approach does unfortunately only display one side of the story. One can analyze the pro's and con's of any situation. Is it possible that some folks have more focus on saving the local insects, than protecting their family?

Over and over again, the public is told of how few people actually display symptoms of infection from West Nile. The public is also told about how few fatalities there are after the touch of encephalitis. Unfortunately, the media takes little or no interest in the survivors of encephalitis - people who are struggling to face life itself, after surviving this horrible disease, whether caused by a mosquito or other causes. In 2003, The CDC website reported 264 deaths from West Nile virus, PLUS **2,866 cases of West Nile neuroinvasive disease**. (Neuroinvasive Disease refers to severe disease cases, particularly West Nile meningitis and West Nile encephalitis.) By September 27th 2004, the CDC's website had reported 53 fatalities, plus 593 **cases of West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease in 2004**. When will people take note of these survivors, and start to care about THEIR fate?

Fortunately, some in the media do not just focus on fatalities. This past summer, the Arizona Republic's *News Update* reported:

Thirty-seven people in Maricopa County have tested positive for West Nile virus, up from 20 last week. Twenty-eight have developed meningitis or encephalitis, swelling of the brain or spinal column. Five have West Nile fever, a milder form of the mosquito-borne disease. Victims range from age 21 to 86. Men outnumber women, 26 to 11. *"The concern is that it's doubling every week," said Michael Murphy of the Arizona Department of Health Services.* (Jun. 25, 2004 12:00 AM)

These survivors struggle with memory loss, where a fiancée is heartbroken when her intended really does not remember her, or the promise that they shared. A man's anger with himself, when his spouse is now the solo family bread-winner. Young people, who now face their education with frustration, as their peers move ahead and leave them behind. Or even a farmer, who can no longer return to his fields. Frankly, I have met a number of examples in each of these statements.

Post encephalitis symptoms may include any...or all... of the following:

- impaired memory - Difficulty committing information to memory; following a conversation, processing ideas through a specific modality (e.g., speaking but not writing); recalling appointments; recalling facts, such as definitions or technical terms.
- difficulty solving problems - difficulty organizing time, breaking large tasks down into smaller parts, and deciding where to start when tackling large tasks.
- Cognitive functions - difficulty recognizing objects (even close friends and family), picking out details, or completing tasks requiring visual-spatial abilities.
- A decrease in executive functions - With frontal lobe damage, it is common that higher order cognitive functions, such as reasoning and judgment are affected.
- Communication difficulties, trouble expressing thoughts - : If the motor functions of the brain are injured, then clear speech can be difficult to generate. However, the brain may also have difficulty transferring thoughts into speech or interpreting incoming speech.
- An increase in irritability and a decrease in tolerance for frustration;
- Symptoms of depression, social withdrawal, and learned helplessness;



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- The tendency to display excessive or inaccurate emotional responses to events, the tendency to overreact
- Occasionally, the areas of the brain responsible for the initiation, coordination, and feedback of the body's movements are affected. These changes can occur in a number of forms, including reduced motor speed, spastic or rigid movements, body tremors, reduced hand-eye coordination, or poor balance. Individuals may also experience periodic seizures that involve a temporary loss of consciousness and/or muscular convulsions.
- Increased fatigue
- Poor coordination of movements
- Dizziness and loss of balance
- Frequent headaches or nausea
- An inaccurate assessment of ability
- Impulsivity
- Poor judgment

What is encephalitis? When asking a number of encephalitis survivors this question, they come up with a number of responses, including:

- Encephalitis is infection or inflammation of the substance of the brain, as opposed to meningitis, which is infection of the lining of the brain.
- Encephalitis is an illness that has changed my life forever for the worse. Nobody understands what encephalitis is, what it does to you, and, that it leaves you permanently disabled in ways they'll never be able to relate to.
- Ever find your tomatoes in your closet? Your newspaper in the freezer and it is dated a month earlier? Ever feel like you are trapped inside your body? Do your friends and family members tell you often that you have told them the same things over and over? You don't remember doing it? These are some of the challenges associated with living with encephalitis.
- People argue and say, "Memory loss? That's nothing! I forget stuff all of the time!" To which I reply, "Yes. You forget things two or three times a day. I forget things, two or three times an hour. Every hour."

There is very little research offered to the public, which notes the impact of West Nile in North America. Following are quotes from two studies.

Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet (2003) <http://prevmed.vet.ohio-state.edu/docs/wnvfact.pdf>  
"In a recent study it was found that of those cases that were hospitalized, half reported problems one year after their illness. Reported symptoms include headache, concentration problems, fatigue, and movement disorders. There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus encephalitis or fever. All care is supportive, including hospitalization, respiratory support, and intravenous fluids. No vaccine or antiviral medication has been developed to prevent or treat this infection in humans. Primary prevention includes protection against mosquito bites, reducing residential mosquito breeding sites, and mosquito control efforts."

One study reported only 37% of patients who had West Nile encephalitis made a full recovery. The full recovery referred to physical, functional, and cognitive areas. New York State Department of Health and Hygiene media release (August 2004) <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/public/press04/nyam-0812.html> informs us that, "Nearly two-thirds of severely infected patients, especially elderly, still suffer physical and mental impairments 12 months after falling ill with West Nile."



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The Casper Star Tribune (**Casper, Wyoming - Saturday, September 25, 2004**) carried an article titled "Colorado West Nile Cases Down." This sounds so very encouraging, until you read the article, which interviews a West Nile survivor.

Glennia Milonich still gets bad headaches, nose bleeds and moments when she cannot see, ever since a mosquito infected her with West Nile virus on her front porch in Berthoud a year ago. ... Milonich, 39, was diagnosed with encephalitis and now has heart damage and swelling on the left side of her body that can keep her from walking. Medical tests have cost her about \$18,000, she said.

### Input from encephalitis survivors

Encephalitis Global is not just a site for finding links to learn about encephalitis and how it is transmitted to people through vectors such as mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus. It is a means by which survivors can share their experience with others. It helps put survivors and their families in contact with others for support and understanding. I have come in contact with numerous survivors of West Nile encephalitis and I speak for them and for others who have contracted this disease, whether from mosquitoes, or through other means. The following is just a brief selection of stories from my internet site written by folks touched by encephalitis:

- "Dear Wendy, I am so glad to hear that officials may soon be addressing this problem. My state is Texas. I was diagnosed with West Nile Fever and Encephalitis in August of 2003. I was 67 at that time. I was critically ill in ICU for over a week and then hospitalized several more. Since coming home my progress has been slow but ongoing. I had memory loss, balance problems, several falls, extreme fatigue/weakness, sleeplessness, numbness, muscle spasms and weakness in my right lower extremities and recurrent low grade fever. I still have most of these symptoms, but to a lesser degree as time passes. I still do use a cane to help me other than for very short distances here in the house. The impact of the illness has certainly been great in regard to my ability to carry out my previously normal activities and of course has impacted my family and my friends. We walk with faith that recovery is on the way and try to be patient and optimistic. Thanks you for all you have done to help so many people and best wishes for your continued involvement and efforts." Sincerely, EF
- My sister was told West Nile and then St. Louis Encephalitis from a mosquito. Pray you don't get bitten because the medical world chalks you up for dead. You will not get the proper care and you will not get anything you are entitled. Your family will suffer along with you trying to understand and deal with the medical people with little or no success and the law will allow you to die while the medical people go about their merry way. Horrible but true. So if you have the misfortune of contracting this disease pray you recover quickly. Theresa M.
- (*I was diagnosed with...*) "WEST NILE ENCEPH when I woke up on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1 year ago, in Wyoming. My lasting symptoms: brain damage causing coordination, short term memory and personality changes. I work part time at my old job, I cannot climb stairs. I have graduated up to a cane from bedridden at its inception without good physical and occupational rehabilitation I wouldn't be where I'm at. Costs to a patient can become astronomical because insurance carriers will not cover rehab, neurological exams and tests are continuing for me." Craig.
- "I can't sue a mosquito, so I'm not. I thought that, as a partner in a fine Boston firm, who worked very hard all my life, I wouldn't have financial problems. I'm on a fixed income now, getting about a third of





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what I made before and I'm lucky to have that. My problems range from profound fatigue, paralysis, sight problems, horrible headaches, tremors, myoclonus, seizures, gait problems, speech problems and unbelievable cognitive problems that people who don't know you just can't understand. I can't read out loud, understand conversation if it's with more than one person, remember a phone number, remember where I'm going, read a map, do my bills by myself. My work capacity in my brain is very small and if anyone interferes with what I'm doing, I can't go back to it. That's called no resistance to short term interference. The problems go on and on and interfere with my ability to work as a lawyer. While my general intelligence is in the 99th percentile, I test in the 1 percent on listening comprehension, things that get interfered with, etc, etc." Judith A.

I understand we are here today to talk about West Nile, but I really believe it is important for people to understand that the threat from mosquito-borne diseases is not limited to West Nile. Over the last few years, news has covered West Nile because it is the most recent epidemic. What about future epidemics from other mosquito-borne diseases? The following are brief quotes from survivors of mosquito-borne encephalitis other than West Nile.

- "Hello, My name is Charles H. Fletcher. I am a survivor of Viral Encephalitis. It is very hard for me to put in words all the ways this illness has affected my life and that of my family. I do not remember much of my hospital experience, but the doctors told me that I died twice in the first 24 hours. I was in Intensive Care for 5 days, then a regular room for 2 more. 2 days after arriving home, I suffered a stroke on the way to my doctor. I tried to return to work in January, but due to recurring, severe headaches (one lasted over a month) I felt it was no longer safe for me to operate any vehicle. Since that time my wife has taken a job at a convenience store, and I have been diagnosed with sleep apnea (which I think is a result of the encephalitis). Now I have to have oxygen forced thru my nose to keep me breathing while I sleep. This has put a tremendous strain on our financial situation, and we have to choose between feeding our three children or paying bills. I have had almost perfect credit until this illness struck me. The worst part is that the doctors are just guessing, because there have not been enough studies or testing of this illness. Please excuse any grammatical errors, this illness has also affected my memory and just about everything else. I am definitely not the same person I was before. I live in Mt. Olive, Illinois, I was diagnosed with St. Louis Encephalitis in October 2003', I was 38 years old. Evidently I was bitten by a mosquito near home in the week before I was admitted to Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It seems that I also am having problems following simple instructions and I have trouble concentrating. I hope this makes some kind of sense to you and that it will help someone to decide to put more funds into finding out ways to help people in my situation. I would gladly participate in any studies to help myself and anyone else that has been afflicted with Encephalitis and I pray everyday for all the families it affects. Sincerely, Charles H. Fletcher"
- "I came down with meningoencephalitis in 1992 after I was bitten by a mosquito. Initially I was taken to a chiropractor by my mother, and the chiropractor eventually arranged to have me admitted to Barrow Neurological Institute, in Phoenix, where I stayed for about 2 weeks. The day of release, the doctor told me he thought I was going to be 'ok', and I believed him. I had no idea what the unknown virus had done to my brain, or that I would have residual problems as a result of my illness. My main problems were short term memory, loss of executive skills, short attention span, dementia, depression, and basically feeling like my brain was in a fog. I used to love to read, but after e, I barely cracked a book since 1992! I used to be a pretty good chess player too, but that was wiped out also, since I had no problem solving skills left. I avoided situations where I would have to 'put my mind' to it, since I could no longer depend on my mind. The doctors never explained to me what happened to me, or if they did I don't remember. They should have written it down for me, since my short term



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memory was affected so severely. Everything about encephalitis was always a great big mystery to me. I felt like my old life was gone, and it was quite lonely after encephalitis, since I was no longer able to engage in mentally stimulating conversations, rather I would 'keep it simple' and just get by with shallow conversation. I would not be able to keep up in a group conversation, and it was very frustrating.

- I learned everything I know about 'e' in Encephalitis Global and Ingrid's Yahoo Enceph Group. I found these sites after a 'relapse' of the residuals which took over my life 9 years post e. Now I know the dreaded effects of stress, and I have had to move back near family to avoid a very stressful place where I was living. I am so grateful for all the information and support I have gotten from these groups, I feel like I have a grip on my situation, living with 'e'." Kimberly M.
- "I was working with a girl who had EEE from mosquito bite, I have often thought of her through the years no idea if she is still alive. She was bitten in 1990 and was permanently on a vent and was wheelchair bound. She could move her face to make faces at you but that was basically it. She also had damage to her internal organs due to seizures which caused a sway in her lower back pushing the spine forward and shifting the organs around. She was five years old then born normal and basically her life was over she would never do anything for herself." Annette
- "I had St. Louis Encephalitis in 1964. Was in a coma for one month. Ran a fever of 106-110 for two weeks. Since then I suffer from MAJOR HEADACHES. On a daily basis on a scale of 1-10 it is an 8. On a really bad day the pain will be at least 15. I then go to the hospital for a shot of demoral. I also have seizures. It is thought that the virus has laid dormant over the years and may be trying to kick back in like the polio virus. To date I have yet to find a physician who knows too much about this virus. It appears that they know more about the ebola fever than encephalitis." Pamela L, Lamar, Colorado
- "Hi Wendy, I had viral encephalitis which I got from mosquitoes. I got it when I was 2 and now I am 29 years old. I had to learn to walk and talk all over again. It has affected my speech, my balance, my coordination (especially eye and hand.), my fine motor skills are slow and I have learning disabilities and some mental health problems. (mostly depression) In school, for a few years, I was in special classes. I was in speech therapy for 13 or 14 years. I think it has impacted my adult life allot even though it has been 25 years. Sometimes when people can't understand what I am saying or I can't do something cause I can't balance or due to my fine motor skills, I feel alone and embarrassed. I am lots better then I was when I was younger but some days are still hard. I don't remember what it was like before I was sick and I am glad for that cause I think, for me, it would be harder. I understand everyone who has had this illness. It is frustrating somedays." Barb
- (*Bevan in California responds...*) "What A Difference~ ONE BUG Can MAKE! Especially A Dirty Little Mosquito! Evidently, I was "bitten" in the Fall Of 1975 in San Francisco, California. RESIDUALS?:Massive Head Trauma~(Brain Damage), Headaches, Sleep Deprivation, Unstable Body Chemistry, Diminished Memory~ (Short & LONG Term), No "Executive Function", Constant CONFUSION, Inability To READ, Diminished "Social Style", "Stroke Like" Symptoms, Diminished ATTENTION Span, Emotional INSTABILITY. IMPACT?: Sheesh ..... Lost Job, Lost INCOME, Almost Turned into a "Vegetable", Lost Wife & Family.
- "I'm Dianna S and you know me, but I just read this e-mail and it talks about Encephalitis from a mosquito bite and that's what caused mine in 1989 and has screwed my life up since then with my





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memory problems and losing my job do to my memory loss then few more years and I had to stop working and driving completely cause of the Lupus and Osteoporosis all from the Encephalitis back in 1989 and it's screwed my whole life up so much and I've become a different person from it all and how my life has turned out to be nowadays. I'm sick of it the way my brain works is so crazy I'll do something and regret it when I'm done but at the time it seemed like the right thing to do but it just helped me get through that it of time like drinking a few beers and when stop and go back to water I regret it and wonder why I did it in the first place since I can't taste or smell or nothing I guess I just do it cause of how my life is so boring there's just nothing going on in my life it's pretty much the same day after day. I just don't know what to do anymore."

There are many threats to happiness and health on this planet. But, when we have tools to combat the threat, we would be idiots to not use those tools. Members at Encephalitis Global shake their heads in wonder and disbelief when they hear folks moan and cry about "annoying mosquito spraying!" They cry that the pesticides may hurt our water quality or the scenery. What about the quality of life of survivors? If West Nile is spread by mosquitoes, then we must eliminate the infected mosquitoes.

We are also often told that, "encephalitis is only a threat to the very young, the very old, and those with lower immune systems." NO! Encephalitis is an equal opportunity disease, striking any and all parts of the community! Another media quote assures us "All those killed in New York by the disease were older than 50 and in poor health." Ah... at the age of fifty, we should no longer care? It's a shock in our culture, that in many instances, the only folks who take this topic seriously, are those who have experienced it!

Some sections of society have come to express disdain over the concern of mosquito-borne encephalitis. Perhaps, because it's getting to be a rather tedious and boring subject in the media, some seem to be wishing that we'd just hush up and cease. It seems that every winter, some media quick-wit shouts out a comparison of the fatality impact of influenza in North America, vs. the fatality impact of mosquito-borne virus, then pooh-poohs the need to be concerned about the mosquito. Society needs to understand, that there is MORE to encephalitis, than the fatality head count!

With proper procedures taken, the impact of mosquito-borne West Nile encephalitis can become a much more controlled situation. With proper procedures, mosquito abatement can protect both the environment and lower the mosquito population. It does not have to be one or the other. We must remind society of the integral part our local mosquito control officers play in striving to lighten the impact of mosquito-borne disease. It seems in so many situations, that somehow, the mosquito-control team have become, "the bad guys." Folks who are not educated or enlightened, often vent and spew, without understanding the facts. I hope that in reviewing the auto-biographies submitted by my friends, you will understand my dismay at this foolish attitude.

The key is to share information, and raise awareness. We must focus on reducing the mosquito population, study the creation of a vaccine, and recognize the impact of mosquito-borne encephalitis such as the West Nile Virus. These are not steps taken with loud dramatic panic, but with education, self respect and motivation to protect our loved ones, and ourselves.

I wish to thank the Subcommittee for its patience and courtesy in allowing me to testify here today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or to provide additional information. It has been a sincere honour to appear before you.

Wendy Station, Founder  
Encephalitis Global [www.encephalitisglobal.com](http://www.encephalitisglobal.com)